



LEROY D. BACA, Sheriff

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



October 22, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL
TO ADDRESS THE INCREASE IN VIOLENT GANG CRIME**

On September 16, 2003, your Board requested the Sheriff's Department prepare a plan to utilize \$3,451,333 for the suppression of gang crime which is to include a list of the impacted areas of the County. In addition, your Board requested a report that defines the statistical data used to describe various crimes. This information will be provided as an attachment to this document.

Background:

The unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, as well as the cities contracting with the Sheriff's Department, have seen a significant increase in violent gang crime this year. Gang homicides are up 29.4 percent and violent gang crime (reflected by homicides, attempted homicides, and assaults with firearms) are up 9.5 percent through August 31, 2003. While there are diverse opinions about the cause of this increase, there is unanimity that the level of violence must be reduced.

Currently, the Sheriff's Department's Safe Streets Bureau has 66 detectives working Operation Safe Streets (OSS) to investigate gang crime and 69 generalist items working in Gang Enforcement Teams (GET). The above listed personnel are spread amongst 13 stations and respond as needed to other areas of the County that are experiencing gang problems.

A Tradition of Service

Proposal Concept:

The Sheriff's Department proposes a comprehensive plan that includes a synergistic effort between existing Departmental resources, suppression teams, County agencies and other departments. This holistic approach will emphasize suppression, intervention, and quality of life issues.

The suppression teams would be known as Community Gang Suppression Teams (CGST) and would be comprised of personnel from Operations Bureau and Safe Streets Bureau. The deputies needed to fill these positions will be loaned from patrol stations with backfill covered by overtime. With these additional deputies, the teams would provide coverage seven days a week in the most violent areas.

The primary focus would be those areas of the unincorporated County that have suffered the largest increase in gang violence. The teams would specifically work in conjunction with the Fire Department, Building and Safety, and the Department of Public Works to address any situation that requires abatement action. The teams would retain the flexibility to be reassigned to other areas that may experience spikes in gang activity.

Mission:

The teams' mission would be to target the most violent gangs and gang members identified by OSS. In addition, these new teams will partner with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Probation Department, State Parole, and the District Attorney's Office.

Team Deployment:

The Department is requesting one lieutenant to oversee operations and five teams comprised of a sergeant and eight deputies. The teams will initially be deployed as follows:

- One team in Century Station area
- One team in Lennox Station area
- One team in Compton Station area
- One team in East Los Angeles Station area
- One team to work in other areas of the County experiencing significant gang violence

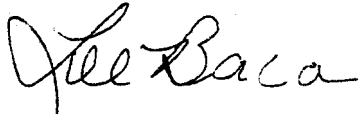
As crime patterns change, these teams may be redeployed to address other areas experiencing increases in gang violence.

Conclusion:

This deployment will begin in October and continue until June 30, 2004, or until designated funds are expended. The program will be evaluated on a monthly basis with quantifiable reports made to each Board member. An evaluation of the program will be conducted throughout the deployment.

If I could be of further assistance, please contact myself or Commander David Betkey, Office of Homeland Security, at (323) 526-5755.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leroy D. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leroy" and last name "Baca" clearly distinguishable.

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

STATISTICAL DATA USED TO DEFINE CRIMES

In all reporting of statistical data, the definitions of specific crimes are those indicated in the California Penal Code. The issue can become murky when generalizations occur. The term "Assaults" is general and can include more than 30 specific crimes. "Felony Assaults" narrows the field to fewer categories and "Assaults Utilizing a Firearm" narrows it further.

The Sheriff's Department believes that the most accurate indicator of the level of gang violence in a community is the cumulative total of three distinct crimes: homicides, attempted murders, and assaults utilizing a firearm. Homicide refers to death at the hands of another person. Attempted murder is a failed, or prevented effort to unlawfully kill a human being. Assaults with a firearm are self-explanatory. While homicides rightfully garner the attention of the media and the public, the difference between a homicide and an assault with a firearm can simply be a question of chance. If a bullet strikes an artery a homicide may result, but if it impacts an inch away, the victim may survive.

Defining "gang crime" can also impact statistical reporting. The following is a definition of "gang crime" developed by the Los Angeles Regional Gang Information Network (LARGIN) and utilized by the Sheriff's Department:

Any crime can constitute a gang related crime when the suspect or victim is an active or affiliate gang member, or when circumstances indicate that the crime is consistent with gang activity. Determining if a crime is gang related is subjective in nature and is a result of a totality of the circumstances. Classification cannot be accomplished accurately without a high degree of gang expertise or validation through the CalGang system. One or more of the following gang related criteria shall be used to justify that a crime is gang related.

1. *The suspect or victim is a known gang member previously entered into the CalGang system*
2. *The suspect or victim is a known gang member or affiliate.*
3. *The suspect or victim has a gang tattoo.*
4. *The suspect or victim has a gang moniker.*
5. *A statement indicating gang involvement was made.*
6. *The suspect or victim was "dressed down" or wearing gang colors or clothing.*
7. *The suspect or victim was demonstrating gang behavior. (Using gang hand signs)*
8. *Multiple suspects and gang modus operandi were involved.*
9. *The location of the crime was within identified gang boundaries, or at a known gang location.*

STATISTICAL DATA USED TO DEFINE CRIMES

10. *Similar reports were made where the suspects were identified as gang members.*
11. *The type and/or modus operandi of the crime are inherently gang related.*
12. *When a reliable informant identifies a crime as gang related.*
13. *When an informant of previously untested reliability identifies a crime as gang related, and it is corroborated by other independent information.*